(c) As per the latest estimate 1993-94 by Planning Commission, the percentage of Scheduled Tribe Population living below the poverty line in Maharashtra in 50.58% in rural and 61.06% in Urban areas.

Special package for tribal welfare in Maharashtra

108. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a)whether Government have any special package for tribal/adivasi welfare and rehabilitation in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) to (c) Though there is no special package for tribal/adivasi welfare and rehabilitation in Maharashtra, the Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides grants to certain State Governments/UT Administration, including the State of Maharashtra, for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes under a number of schemes including major schemes *viz.* Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan and Grants under 1st proviso to Article 275 (1) of the Constitution. Financial assistance is provided under the scheme of Special Central Assistance to Tribal Sub Plan, to meet the gaps which are not otherwise taken care of by the State Plan. It is basically meant for family-oriented income generating schemes in sectors like agriculture, horticulture, minor irrigation, soil conservation, animal husbandry, forest, education cooperatives, fisheries, villages and small industries and minimum needs programme. Grants under 1st proviso to Article 275(1) of the Constitution is given to meet the cost of such projects for Tribal Development as may be undertaken by the State Governments, with the approval of Govt. of India, for the purpose of promoting the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes in the State or raising the level of administration of the Scheduled Areas therein to that of the administration of the rest of the areas of that State.

Funds allocated under the above mentioned two schemes to the State Govt. of Maharashtra during 2001-2002 is as given below:

SCA to TSP	:	Rs. 37.23 crores
Art. 275(1)	:	Rs. 26.72 crores

Besides funds are provided for other specific schemes, both Centrally Sponsored and Central Sector to the States including Maharashtra for socio-economic development of Scheduled Tribes.

Tribals living in sub-human conditions

109. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether tribals across the country continue to live in poverty, illiteracy and sub-human conditions in the new millenium;

(b) if so, the reasons for raw deal given to tribals; and

(c) the action proposed to ensure proper implementation of Central schemes and utilization of funds for the upliftment of tribals only?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): (a) and (b) The tribals across the country have over the years improved their living standards as revealed from various human development indicators. The literacy rate among STs has increased from 8.50% in 1961 to 29.60% in 1991. The percentage of ST population below poverty line has come down from the level of 68.10 in 1977-78 to 41.14 (urban) and 51.94 (rural) in 1993-94. The number of ST persons employed in different jobs in Govt. of India has increased from 50,989 in 1965 to 2,17,705 in 1995. However more need to be done to bring them at par with general population.

The TSP strategy has been adopted since 5th Plan, so that funds at least in proportion to tribal population in the States is deployed from the State and Central Plans for development of Scheduled Tribes. Besides, several Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes aim at development of education, health and income generating activities among Scheduled Tribes.

(c) In order to ensure proper implementation of Central Schemes and utilization of funds for the upliftment or tribals, the following measures are taken:

(i) Utilization certificates for earlier releases are insisted upon as a pre-requisite for further release of funds.

(ii) Central Government officers visit the States/UTs to ascertain on the spot progress of implementation of schemes.

(iii) Meetings/Conferences are convened at Central level with the State